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From the People

The CIA in Peace and War

To the Editor of the Gazette:

Your October 3rd story, "Ex-Agent Warns CIA Must Be Controlled," contains enough inaccuracies and innuendos to lead me to question its authenticity, and to suspect it as simply another unjustified attack by the news media on the Central Intelligence Agency.

If the story is accurate, Victor Marchetti, who has just resigned from the CIA after 16 years, did not learn very much about the Agency, even though he claims to have reached its "highest levels." More likely, the interview has been distorted somewhere along the way either by the reporter or an editor.

The article contains two major misleading, if not completely inaccurate, statements. First, Marchetti claims there is a danger the CIA may be used to set up spy operations against dissident groups in the United States, such as student groups and black movements. To make such a statement is very misleading since legislation prohibits the CIA from engaging in domestic operations. Domestic operations are the bailiwick of the FBI. To change the CIA charter to provide otherwise would require an act of Congress. Congress isn't about to give such approval. In this sense, the headline, "Ex-Agent Warns CIA Must Be Controlled" is very misleading. It is already controlled, namely Congress specifies where it will run its operations.

The second misleading statement is allegedly made by Marchetti, when he is quoted as saying: "One of the things the CIA clandestine people can do is to start up wars They can start up a private war in a country, clandestinely, and make it look like it's just something the local yokels have decided to do themselves." The inference of this statement is that the CIA decides on its own when it will start up a war, in short, the assumption is that the CIA exercises considerable control over U. S. foreign policy, and makes all kinds of decisions on its own without consulting anyone. This is a fairy tale created by newsmen and others who for reasons of their own take great liberties with the facts. By statute, the

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tional security affairs. The NSC is composed of the President, the Vice President, and the Secretaries of State and Defense. Since the NSC only recommends policy to the President, the CIA is in effect directly subordinate to the President. Congress also oversees the CIA, through key congressmen. This latter precaution apparently is necessary for several reasons: (1) if Tully's book, *The CIA*, is accurate, the operations of the Agency are very sensitive, and (2) some congressmen are sorely afflicted with a constipation of thought and a diarrhea of words. To tell some congressmen about CIA operations would be to shout it to the world.

Other points in the article raise questions. If Marchetti is so concerned about intelligence problems, why did he resign? It would appear that a person who had reached "the highest levels of the Central Intelligence Agency," would be better able to bring about reforms by staying in rather than by tucking tail and running. Frankly, barring the excellent possibility of news processing distortion of the interview, it sounds more like Marchetti got fired, and is now letting off steam to get revenge.

One of the things the story fails to tell readers is that thousands of capable CIA employees, who come from our best colleges and universities, are working nights and weekends to protect the security of the people of the U. S. and have given no thought to resigning. Even Bobby Kennedy had great praise for the CIA.

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